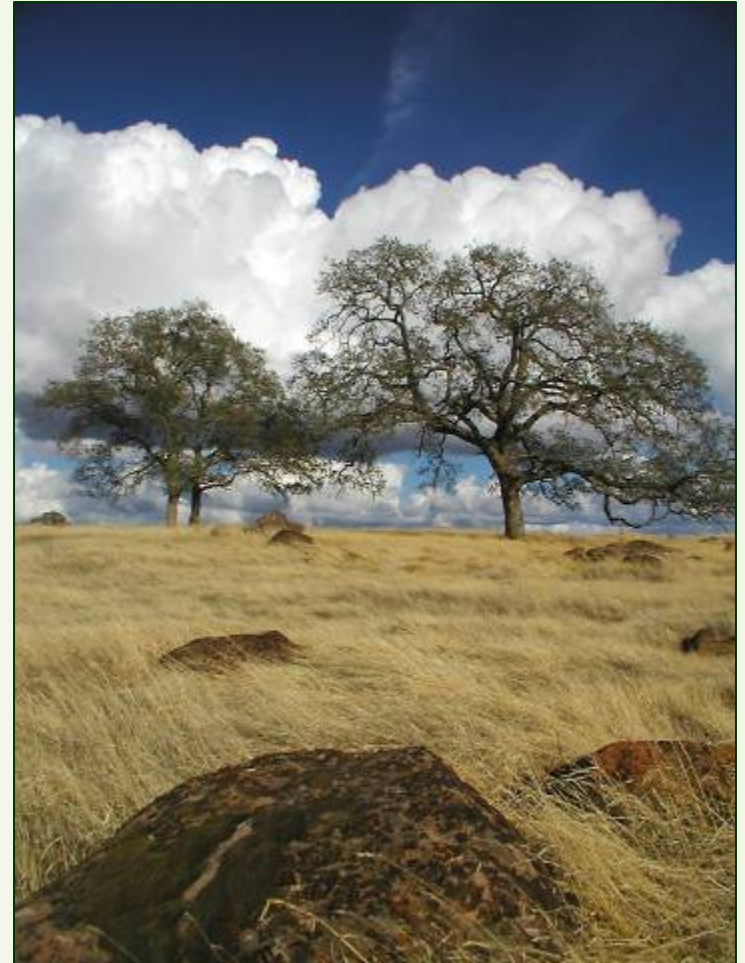


Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

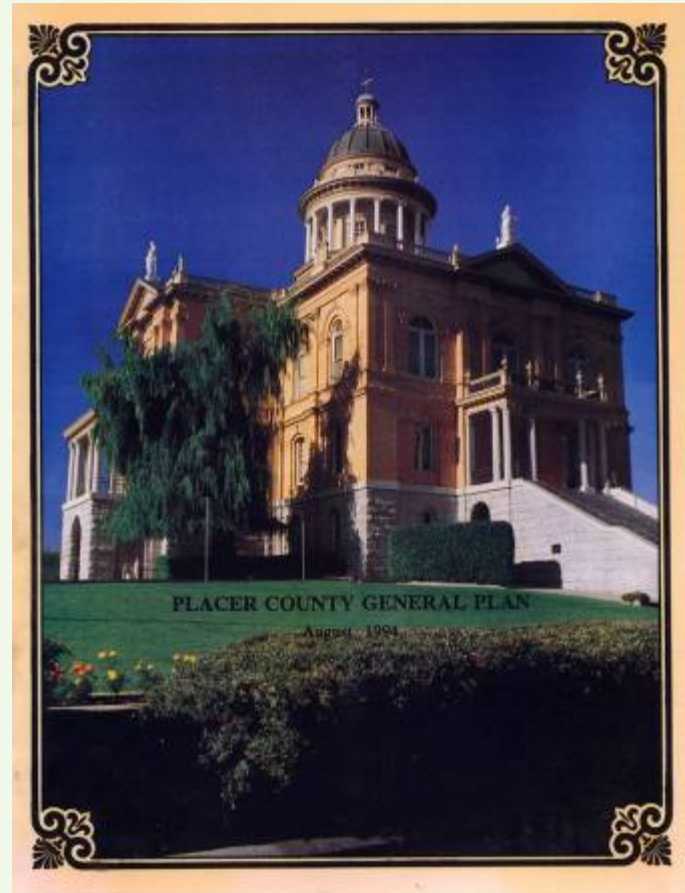
Placer Legacy



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Background

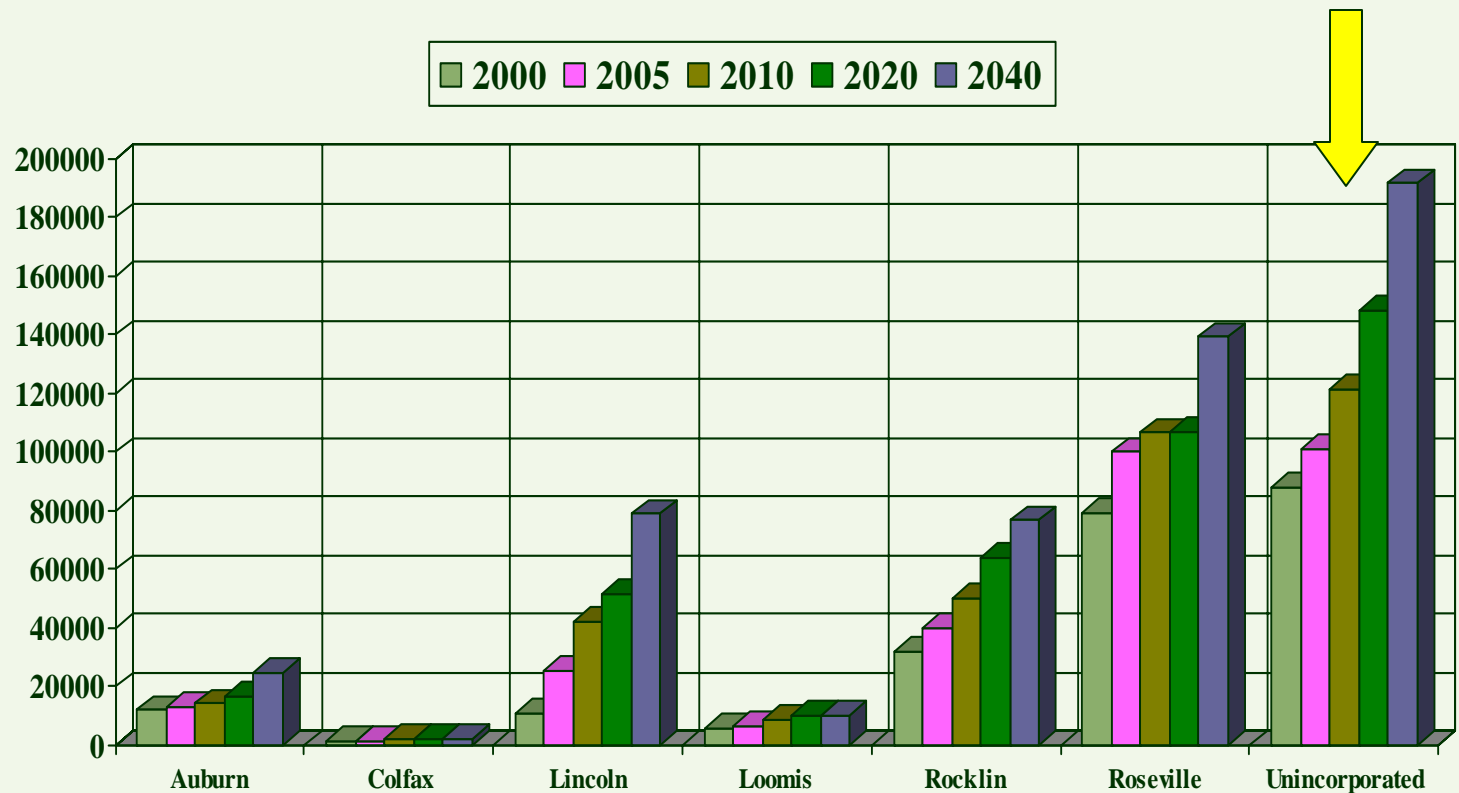
The *Placer Legacy* Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program was initiated by the Board of Supervisors in April of 1998 to implement the goals, policies and programs of the 1994 Placer County General Plan.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Population and Growth

State Projections for Placer County to 2040



The unincorporated County will have the largest population of all the local governments with land use authority in Placer County.

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives



Rice Farm

maintain a viable
agricultural segment of
the economy



Farmer's Market Produce

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives

conserve natural features
necessary for access to a
variety of outdoor
recreation opportunities



**Cisco Grove-Gould Park –
South Fork Yuba River**



**Hidden Falls Regional Park –
Sierra Foothills**



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives



Swainson's hawk



Burrowing Owl

preserve the diversity of plant and animal communities

protect endangered and other special status plant and animal species;



Vernal Pool Grasslands

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives



Rural County Lane

separate urban areas into
distinct communities;



Farm 80 acre min.

Sun City Roseville

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives

ensure public safety, and



Cook Riolo Bridge 1997



Sierra College Blvd. 1995



Walerga Bridge 1997



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Objectives



Sierra Nevada Petroglyphs

Retain important
scenic and historic
areas



Sierra Nevada - West Slope



Placer County Courthouse

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy

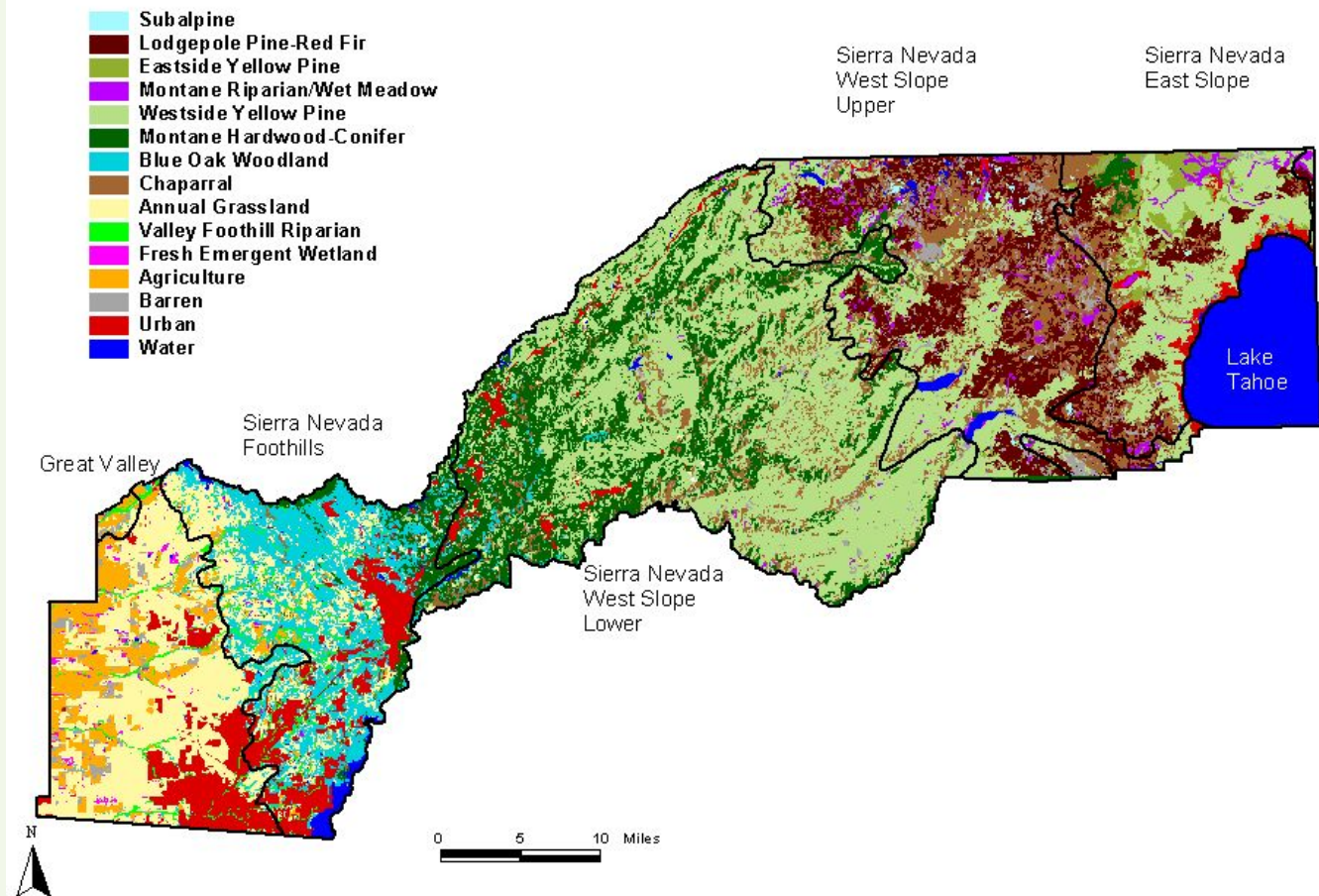
Placer County has elected to take a multi-faceted approach that is based on 1994 General Plan policies. The Placer Legacy Program has 4 key planning elements:



- Preparation of a habitat conservation plan/natural communities conservation plan
- Watershed level and site specific planning for ecosystem restoration plans
- Acquisition of fee title interest and conservation easements
- Public outreach and education

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer County Ecoregions and Vegetation



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer County Ecoregions and Vegetation

Placer County is one of the most biodiverse areas in the State of California which is one of the most biodiverse areas on the earth. Of all natural communities delineated by the Wildlife Habitat Relationships System, Placer County has 40 separate natural communities representing 63% of all habitats present in the state.





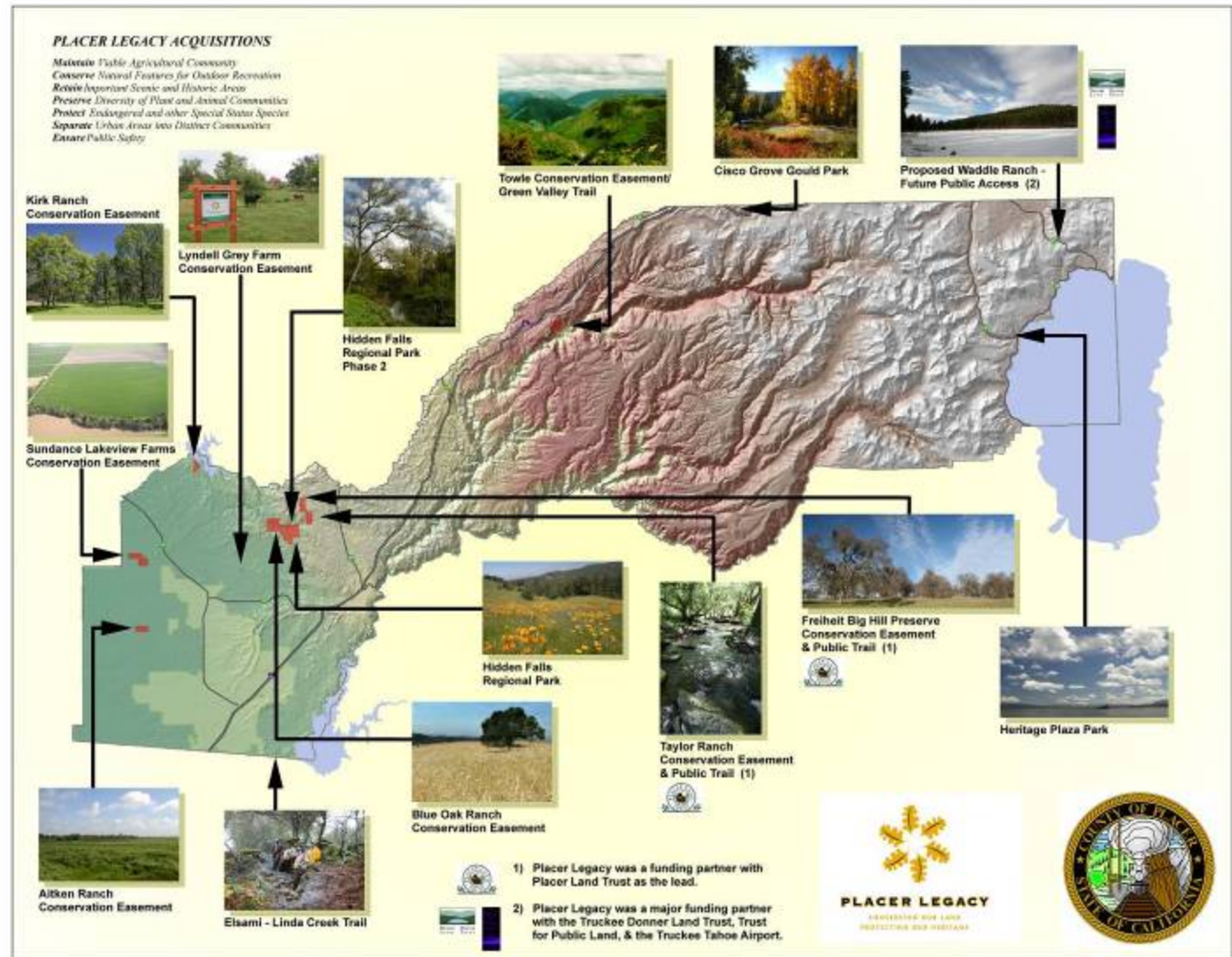
Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer County Ecoregions and Vegetation

1. Subalpine Conifer
2. Red Fir
3. Lodgepole Pine
4. Sierran Mixed Conifer
5. White Fir
6. Jeffrey Pine
7. Ponderosa Pine
8. Eastside Pine
9. Juniper
10. Aspen
11. Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress
12. Montane Hardwood
13. Montane Hardwood Conifer
14. Montane Riparian
15. Blue Oak Woodland
16. Blue Oak Foothill Pine
17. Valley Oak Woodland
18. Eucalyptus
19. Valley Foothill Riparian
20. Alpine Dwarf Shrub
21. Bitterbrush
22. Montane Chaparral
23. Chamise-Redshank Chaparral
24. Annual Grassland
25. Perennial Grassland
26. Wet Meadow
27. Fresh Emergent Wetland
28. Pasture
29. Lacustrine
30. Cropland
31. Dryland Grain Crops
32. Irrigated Grain Crops
33. Rice
34. Irrigated Row/Field Crops
35. Orchard-Vineyard
36. Deciduous Orchard
37. Vineyard
38. Barren
39. Urban
40. Riverine

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions - Summary





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions - Summary

Since the program was developed in 2000 the Placer Legacy Program has protected 11 properties totaling 2,700 acres. An additional 4 properties have been protected with the County as a funding partner amounting to an additional 4,100 acres – totaling 6,800 acres of land in Placer County.

All programs costs (including the development of an NCCP) have exceeded \$24M of which \$12M has come from outside funding.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Spears Ranch - Irrigated Pasture & Blue Oak Woodlands

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



The 960-acre property was acquired in fee title and includes blue oak woodland and 2.5 miles of Coon Creek. The site is very diversify both in terms of its geography and vegetation.

The property will be used as part of the Spears/Didion Park. The Spears portion will open in phases as early as 2007.

Spears Ranch - Irrigated Pasture & Blue Oak Woodlands

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

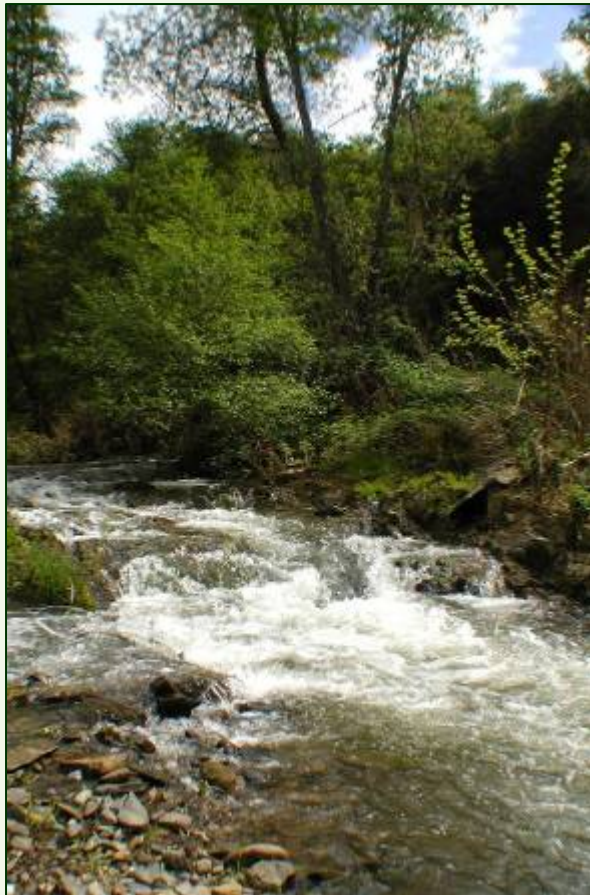
Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Didion Ranch Park Site – Coon Creek

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Features include:

50-car parking lot for passenger vehicles and trailers for horses

Picnic areas

Restroom Facilities

20+ miles of trails

Hiking, biking, fishing and equestrian access – no camping or motorized vehicles

Open sunrise/sunset

Spears/Didion Ranch Park Site

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions

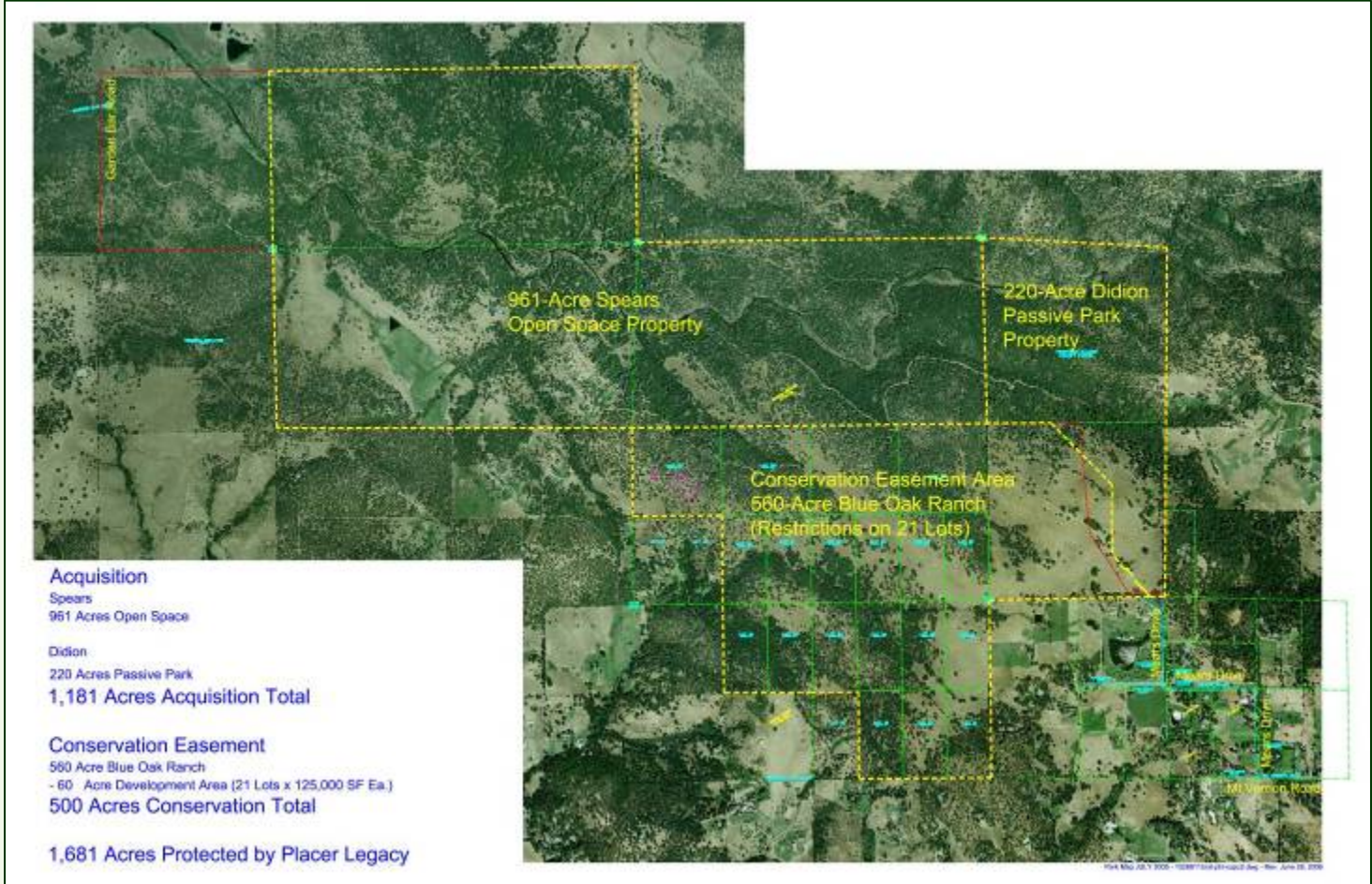


220 acres of Blue Oak Woodland and ½ mile of Coon Creek. The site abuts the Spears Ranch property to the east and is the former site of the proposed Hidden Falls Subdivision. The site, along with the Spears Ranch will be a 1,120 acre public park. This park is currently open to the public.

Hidden Falls Regional Park Site – Coon Creek

A vertical photograph of a field of bright yellow poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing their dark centers. The green stems and leaves are visible, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Spears/Didion Ranch Park Site

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Aitken Ranch Conservation Easement – Auburn Ravine

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



320 Acre Agricultural
Conservation Easement

Protects 1 mile of Auburn Ravine
and its floodplain

The largest riparian area in Placer
County under a single property
owner

Vernal Pools restoration and
enhancement and oak woodland
restoration is occurring as
mitigation for the SR 65 Bypass.

Aitken Ranch Conservation Easement – Auburn Ravine

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Cisco Grove Gould Park Site - South Yuba River

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



17-acre fee title acquisition includes access to ½ mile of the So. Fork Yuba River. The acquisition will also protect the last of the old Cisco Grove Commercial Area.

The site is to be developed as a passive park adjacent to Interstate 80. It is expected to be open in late 2005 or spring 2006.

Cisco Grove Gould Park Site - South Yuba River

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



The “Cisco Grove”

Cisco Grove - Gould
Park Site

Acquired with the
critical assistance of
the Placer Land Trust
and State Grants



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Towle Property – Giant Gap

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



A 237-acre open space and scenic conservation easement was acquired to protect property along the North Fork American River in Alta. A public trail easement was also acquired to provide access to public lands adjacent to the site. The Green Valley Trail will be accessible from Moody Ridge Road through this site.

Towle Property – Giant Gap

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



A 17-acre agricultural conservation easement was acquired on a PlacerGrown member's property in order to protect a 100+ year family ranch in perpetuity.



Lyndell Grey Property – Rural Lincoln

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions

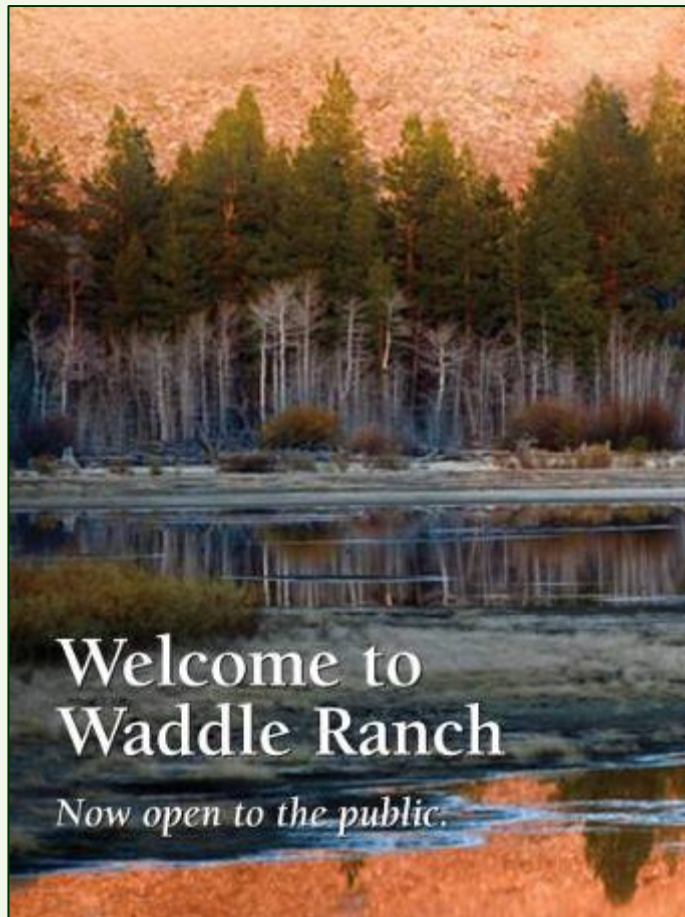


The County, with the assistance of the United Auburn Indian Community and the California Wildlife Foundation preserved the 290 acre Kirk Ranch near Camp Far West Reservoir.

Kirk Ranch – Camp Far West

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



The County was a \$10,000,000 contributor to the purchase of the \$23.5M Waddle Ranch in the Martis Valley. The property, now owned by the Truckee Donner Land Trust is now accessible to the public and all development potential was retired.

Waddle Ranch – Martis Valley

A vertical photograph showing a dense field of bright yellow poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The green stems and leaves are visible between the flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with more flowers and greenery.

Waddle Ranch – Martis Valley

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Lakeview Farms Conservation Easement – Coon Creek



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Placer County, through Placer Legacy, was a funding partner on the Taylor Ranch. The 320 acre site will have a public trail that will ultimately connect to the Hidden Falls Park.

Taylor Ranch – Placer Land Trust

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy Acquisitions



Placer County, through Placer Legacy, was a funding partner on a conservation easement on the Liberty Hill Property. Like Taylor Ranch the 320 acre site will have a public trail that will ultimately connect to the Hidden Falls Park.

Liberty Hill Preserve – Placer Land Trust



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Our Regional Conservation Planning Efforts



At present, the County is primarily focused on the west slope drainages although there are ongoing efforts in the Truckee River watershed.

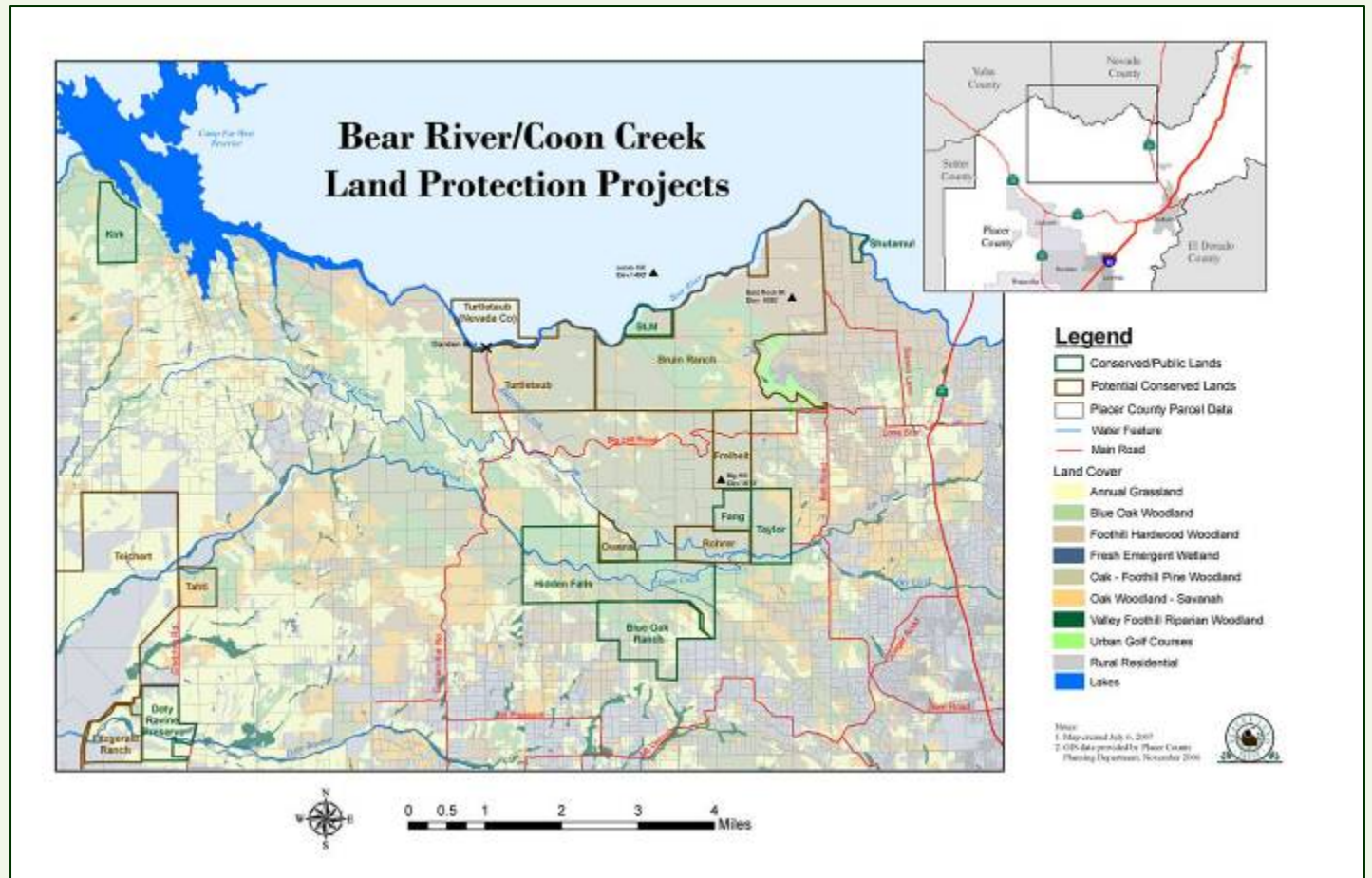
A vertical photograph of a field of bright yellow poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing their dark centers. The green stems and leaves are visible, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.



Placer's portion of the Spenceville Conceptual Area Protection Plan

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Our Regional Conservation Planning Efforts



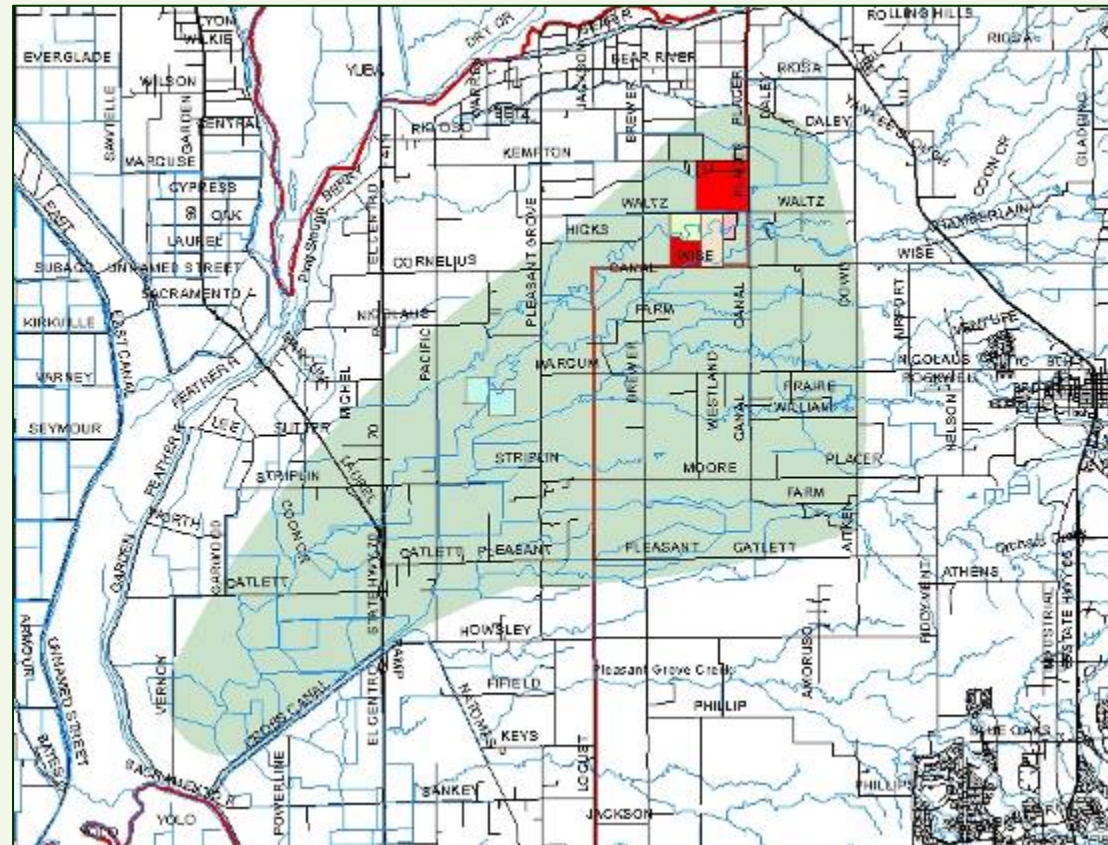
The primary acquisition objective for Placer Legacy is focused on blue oak woodlands with the Kirk Ranch, Taylor Ranch and Freiheit Ranch in the Coon Creek and Bear River watersheds.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Our Regional Conservation Planning Efforts

Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture – American Basin Working Group



The American Basin Working Group seeks to acquire and restore 7-8,000 acres of land in the Central Valley in western Placer County and eastern Sutter County for waterfowl habitat.

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Our Regional Conservation Planning Efforts

Truckee River Watershed

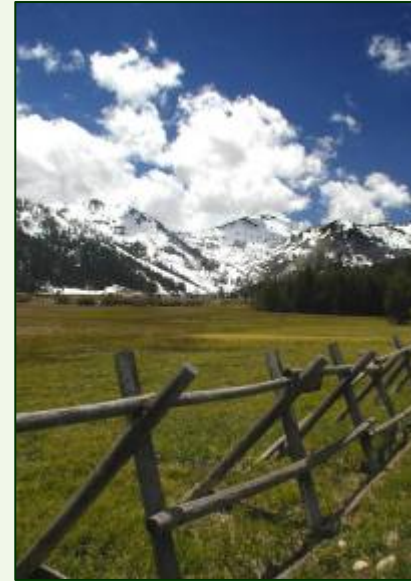
Truckee River Corridor
Access Plan

Truckee River Watershed
Group

Friends of Squaw Creek

Squaw Creek Restoration
Plan

Martis Valley Open Space
Conversion Ordinance



**Squaw Valley
Montane
Meadow**



Martis Lake



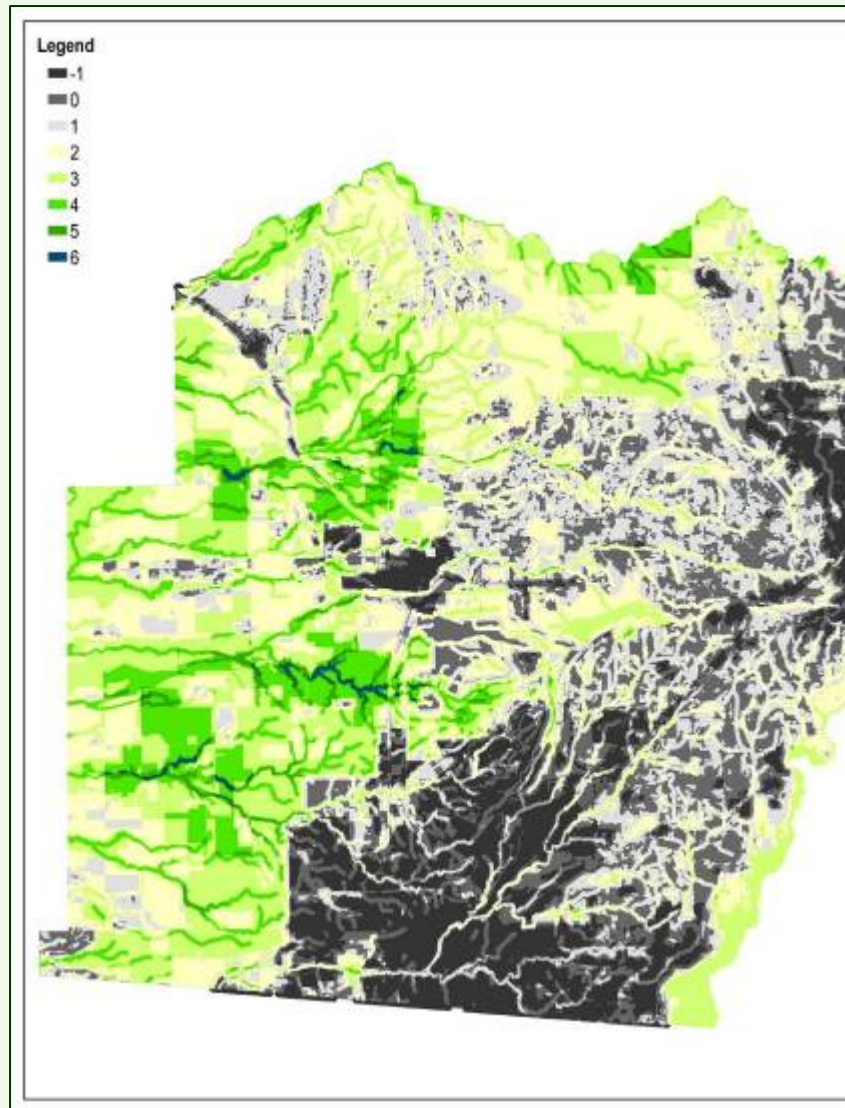
Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program
The Placer County Conservation Plan - PCCP





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Conservation Priorities



Placer Legacy and our HCP/NCCP efforts are implemented through the conservation of high value resource lands that help insure the sustainability and recovery of sensitive species.

Ranking of conservation values

 = high value

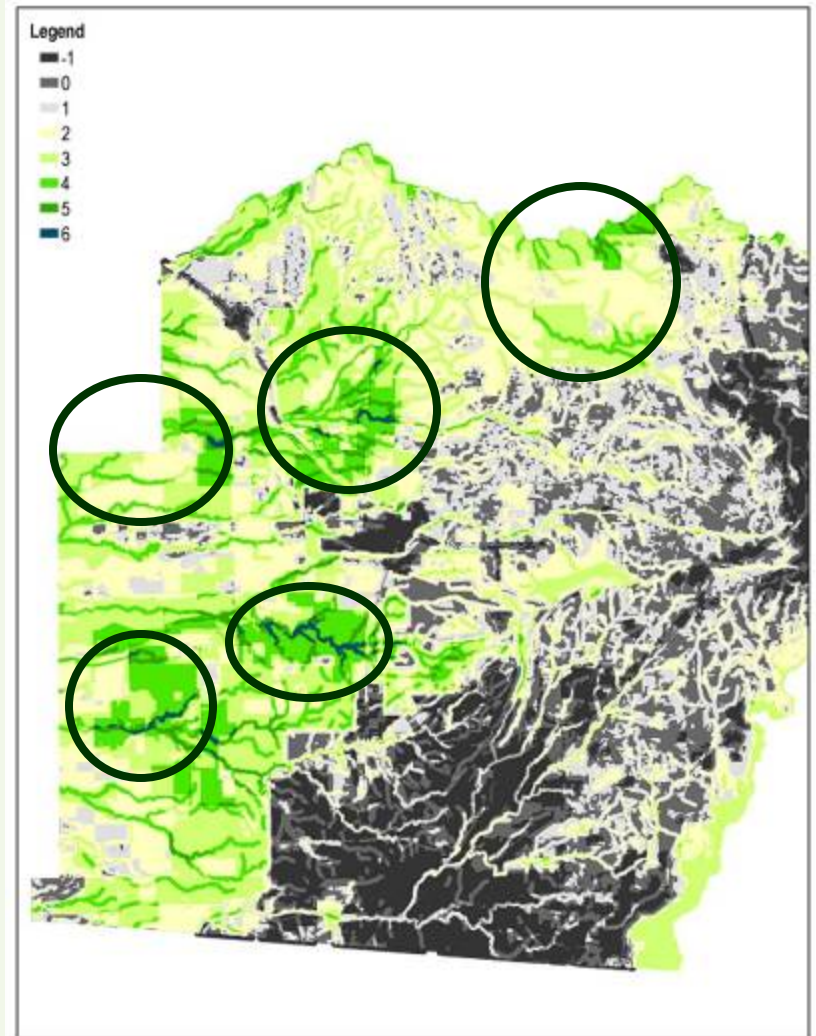
 = low value



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Conservation Priorities

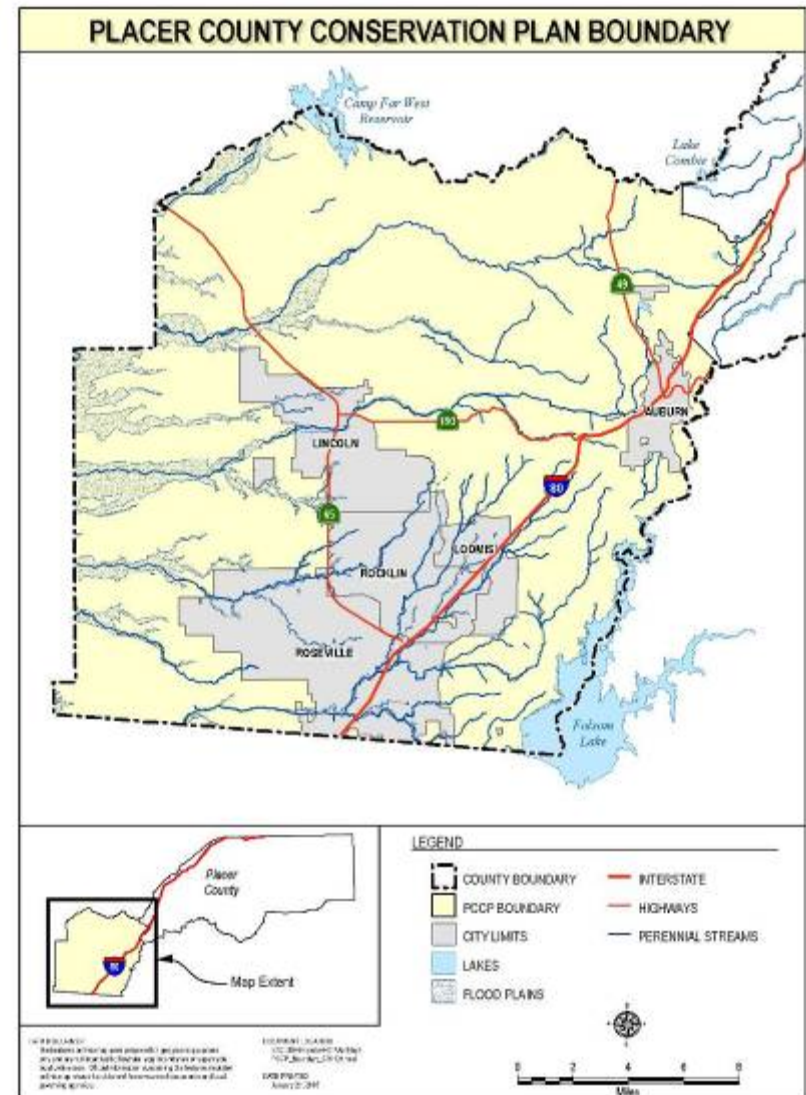
It is anticipated that the participating agencies will need 50,000-60,000 acres of land that can be permanently protected in a number of conservation reserves. These reserves will account for the growth that is anticipated between now and 2050.





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program *Placer Legacy HCP/NCCP – Regional Planning*

The Phase 1 Boundary is defined by political borders with Sutter, Sacramento, Nevada, Yuba and Eldorado Counties, and the easternmost extent of any watershed that has the potential to support salmonids.





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

2050 Growth Scenario

<u>Projections for PCCP Economic Analysis</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2050</u>	<u>2002-2050</u>
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<u>Phase 1 Area (Including Non-Participating Cities)</u>			
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Jobs by Place of Work	144,400	408,000	264,000
Household Population	248,000	569,000	321,000
Households	95,000	257,000	162,000

<u>Participating Agencies</u>	<u>Pop./Emp</u>	<u>2002-2050</u>
--------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Total New Population		224,000
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Total New Jobs		153,000
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Total New Households		90,000
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The PCCP will cover the endangered species and wetland impacts for the 90,000 new homes and the 153,000 jobs that will be created over the next 50 years.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

2050 Impact Scenario

Habitat Type	PCCP Total Ac.	Impacted	%
Cropland Total	44,644	11,664	26%
Hardwood/BOW Total	36,259	15,855	44%
Other Forest Types	14,194	3,737	26%
Stream System Total	10,358	406	4%
Valley Grassland Total	50,456	20,332	40%
Vernal Pool Total	20,749	3,995	19%
Urban Total	50,460	0	0
Grand Total	227,530 ac	55,989 ac	

At 2050, 54,300 acres of land is converted. This represents 81% of the total amount of impact that is expected in the Phase 1 boundary to 2050. The remaining 19% is from the non-participating cities.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

The Scope of Regulatory Coverage

The PCCP will provide 50-year permit coverage for the following permits:

- Incidental Take Permit – FESA
- Incidental Take Permit – CESA
- Master Streambed Alteration Agreement

The PCCP will provide incremental 5-year permit coverage for the following permits:

- Programmatic Water Quality Certification
- Issuance of Programmatic General Permit and Letter of Permission Procedures (County Aquatic Resources Permit or CARP)

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

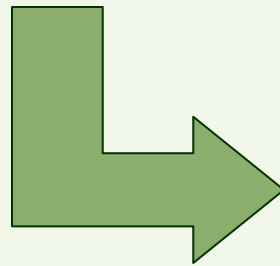
PCCP Regulatory Coverage

State/Federal
Endangered Species Act

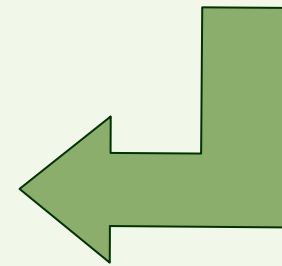
Federal Clean
Water Act

HCP/NCCP

CARP



**PCCP
Reserve
System**



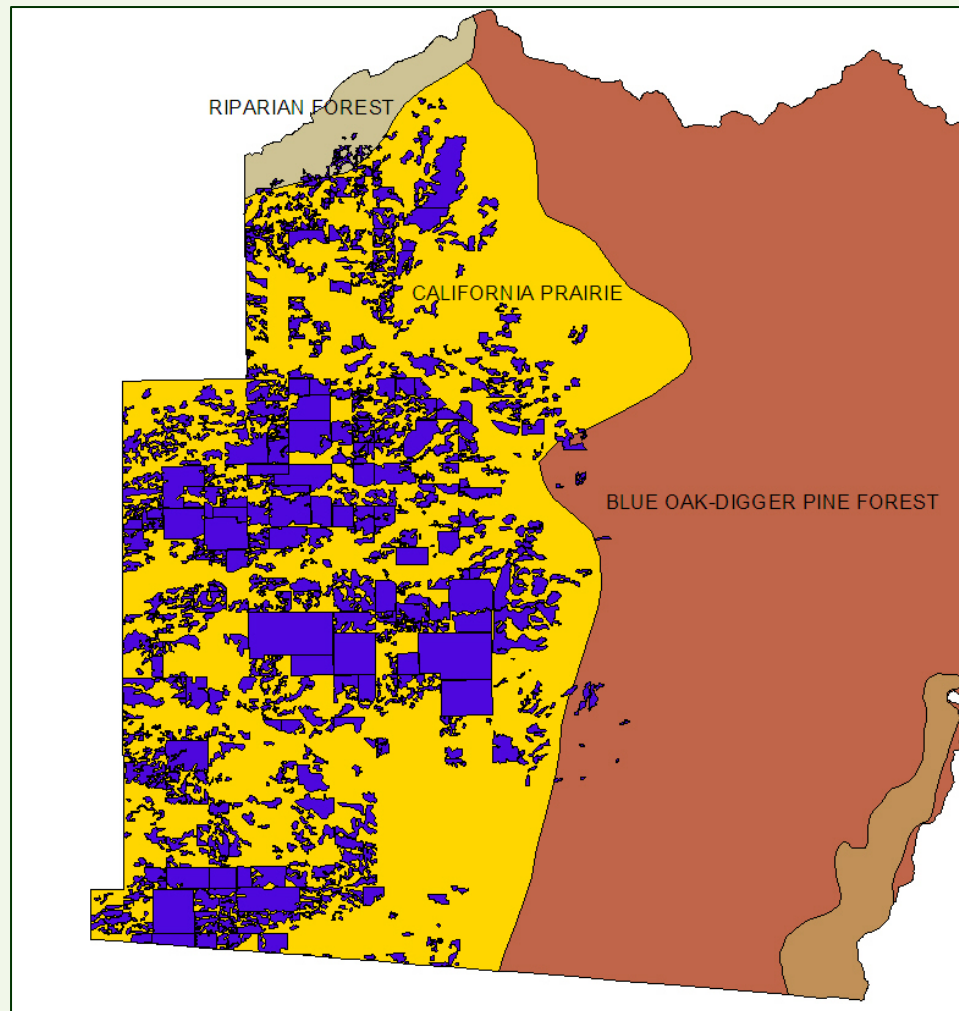
- Independent, parallel programs
- Joined by the PCCP mitigation reserve system





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Vernal Pool Impacts – The need for solutions



**Distribution
of vernal pool
grasslands in
1937**

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

What is a vernal pool?



Vernal pools are shallow surface depressions caused by either ancient volcanic mudflows or a claypan which provide an impervious subsurface layer resulting in the depressions filling with water during the rainy season. This unique condition leads to these areas being hosts to a long list of rare or sensitive species.

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

What is a vernal pool?



Vernal pools are unique in that they contain a high percentage of California endemics.

Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

What is a vernal pool?



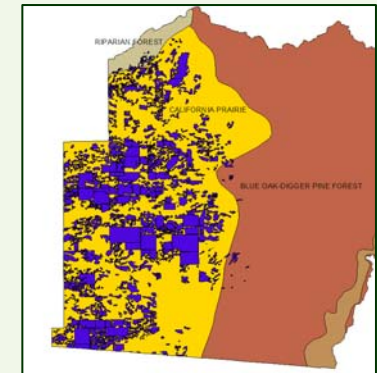
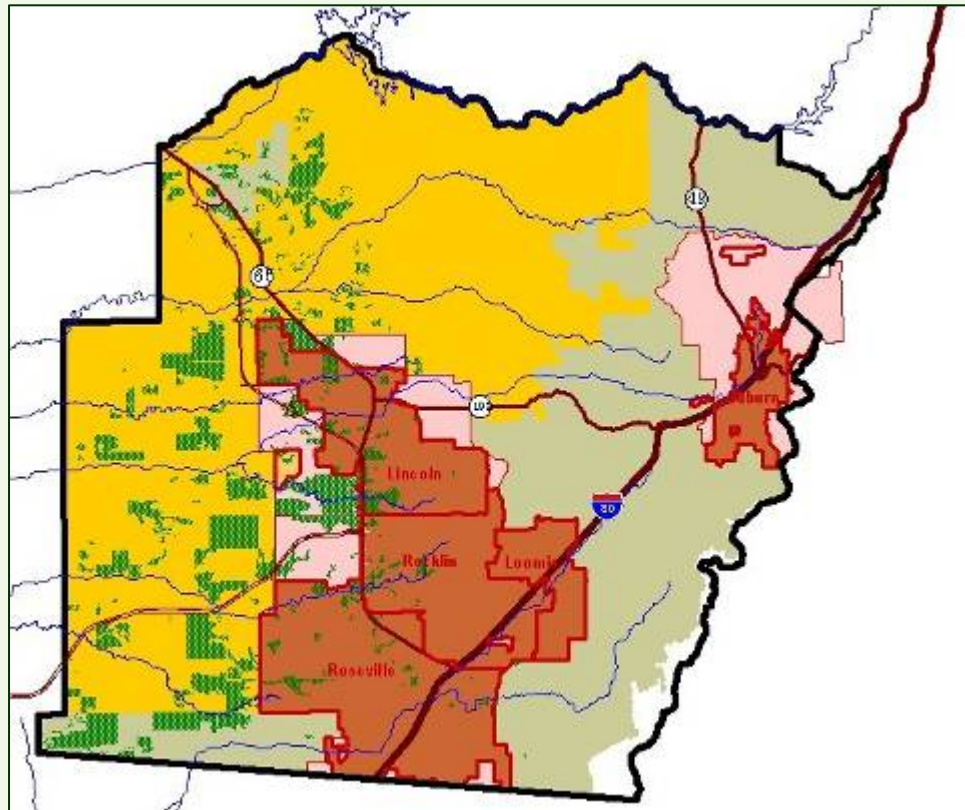
Vernal pools are also the host habitat for 2 federally-listed endangered species, the vernal pool fairy shrimp and the tadpole shrimp – both found in Placer County.

Growth in western Placer County is impacting these resources.



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Vernal Pool Impacts – The need for solutions

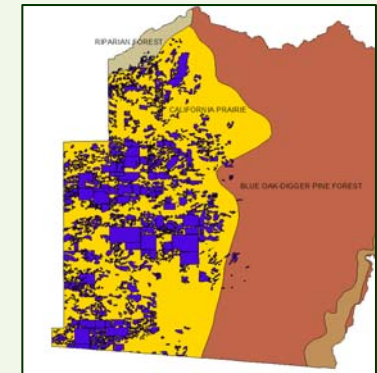
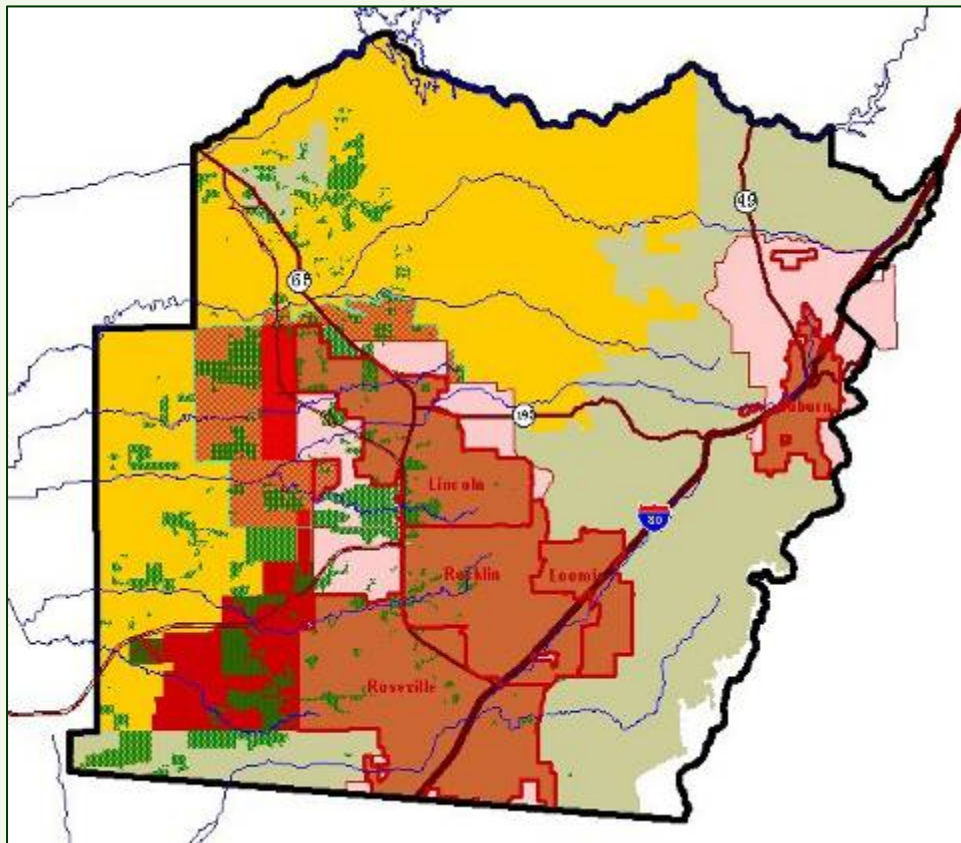


**Distribution
of vernal pool
grasslands in
2002**



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Vernal Pool Impacts – The need for solutions



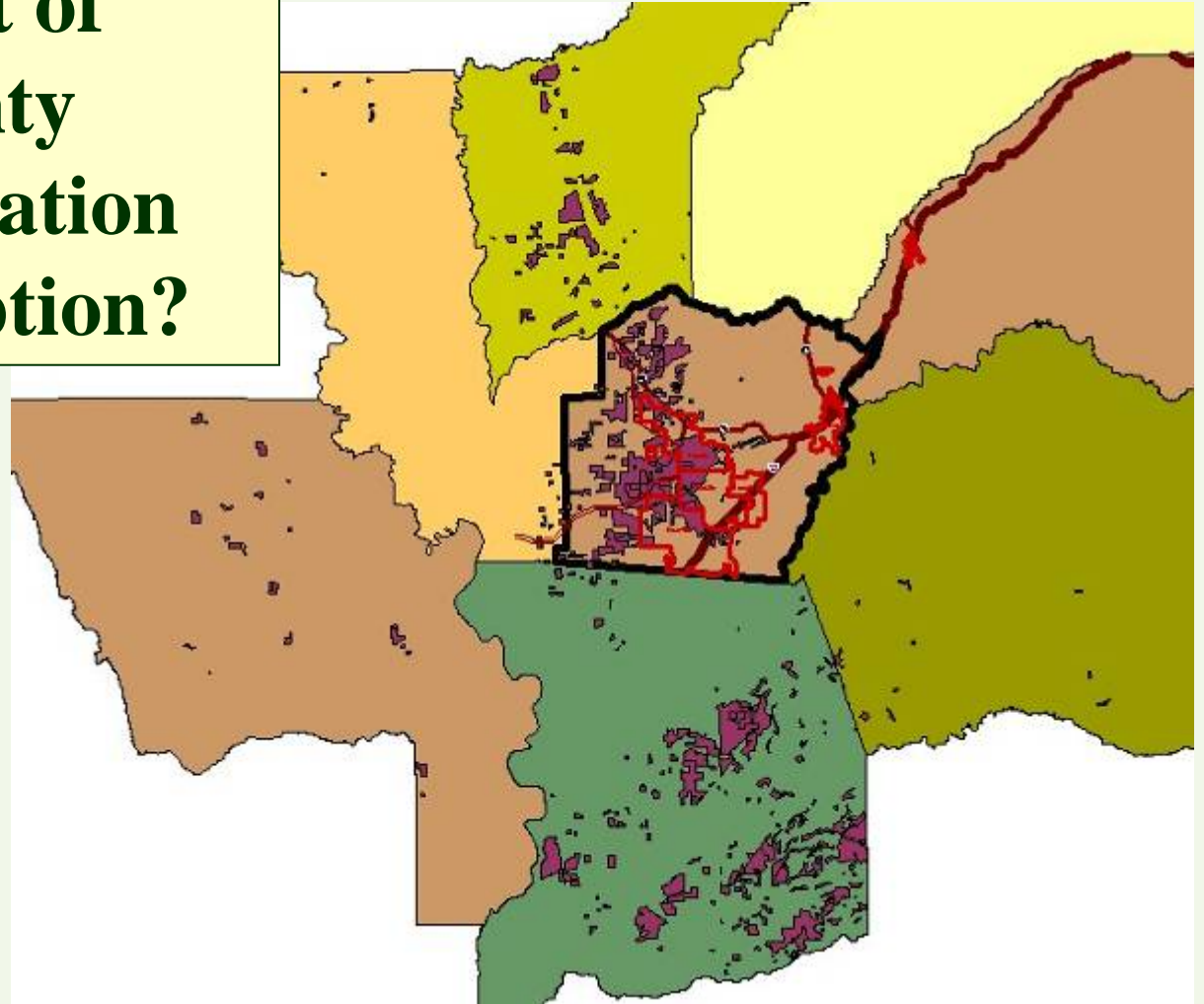
**Distribution
of vernal pool
grasslands in
2050**



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

PCCP and Vernal Pools - Options

**Is out of
County
mitigation
an option?**

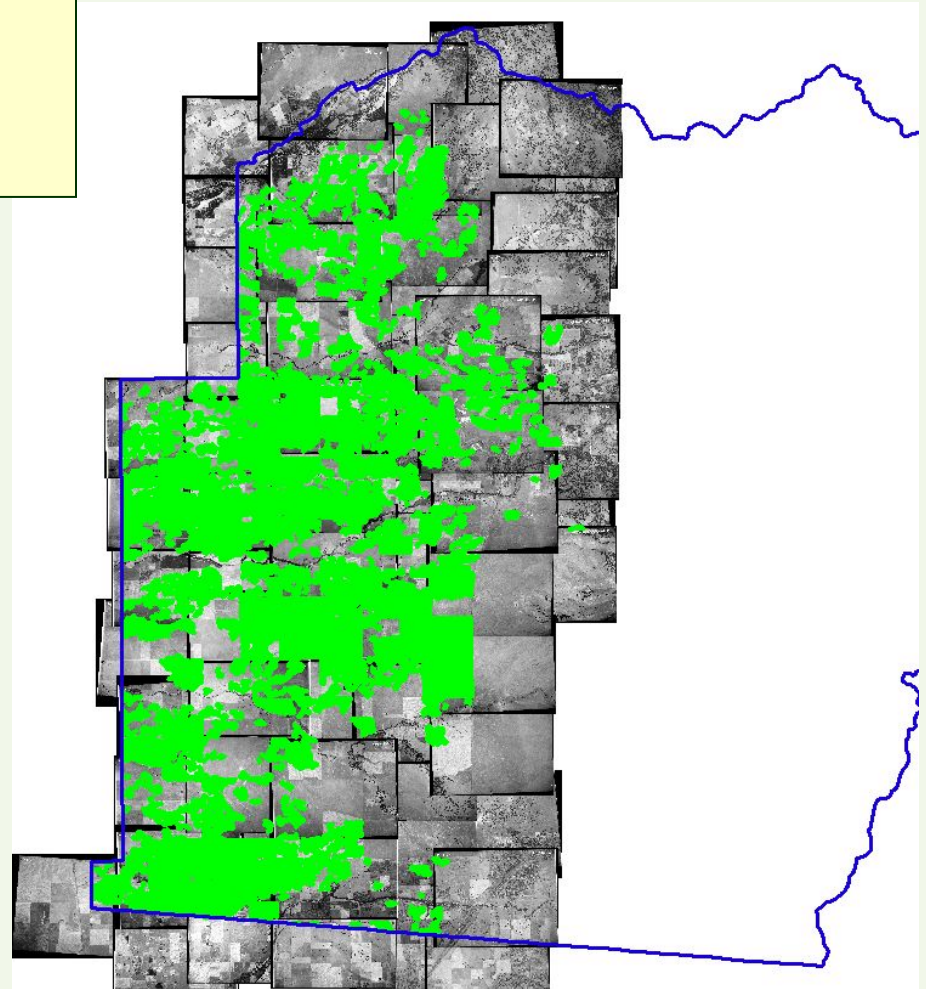


Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

PCCP and Vernal Pools - Options

**Is restoration
an option?**

In 1937 the
western Placer
landscape was
dominated by
vernal pools and
grasslands



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

PCCP and Vernal Pools - Options

**Is restoration
an option?**

1937



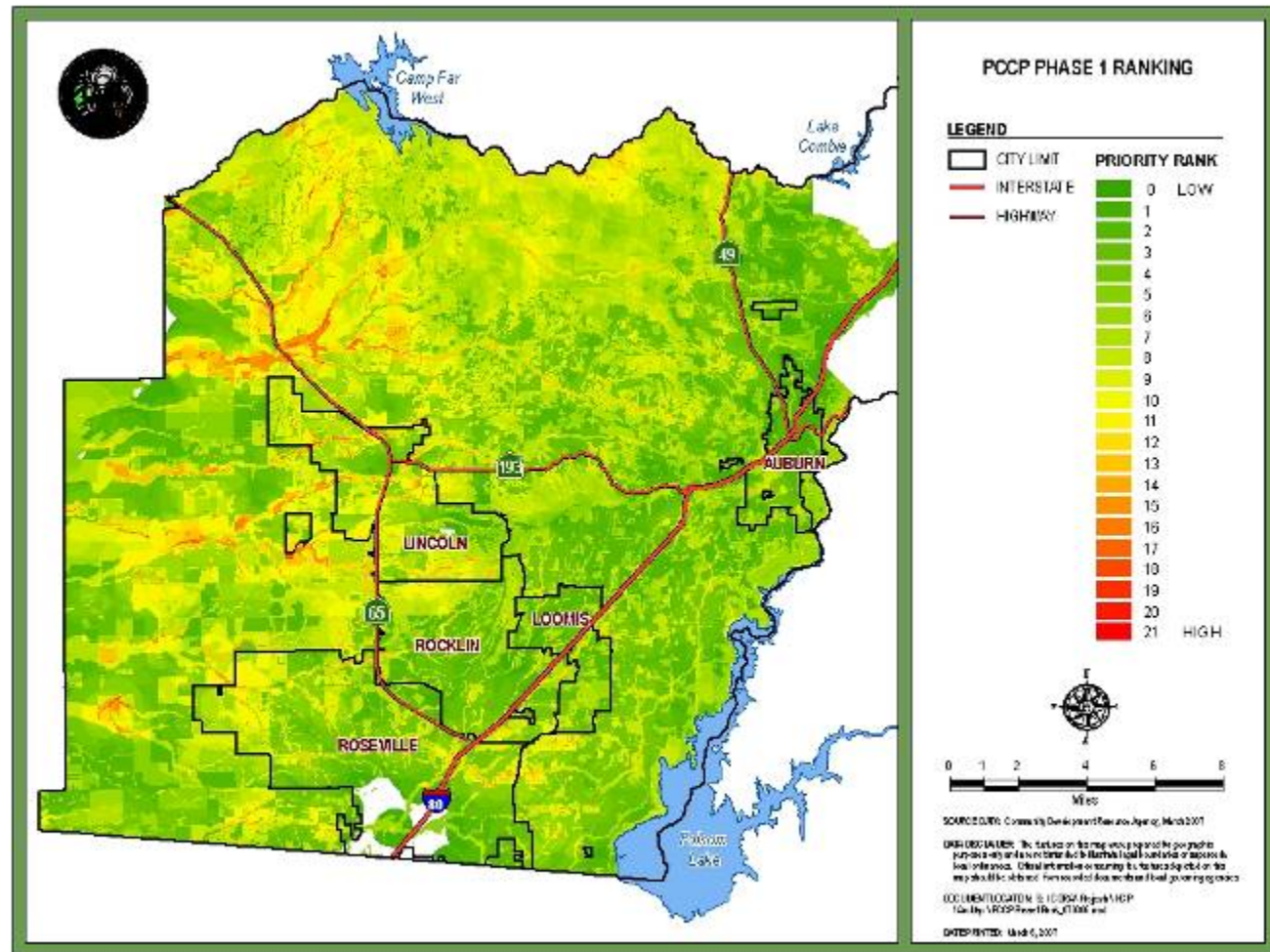
In area in green are
vernal pool complexes
in 1937 and the area
in red are the
complexes today.

2002



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

PCCP – Conservation Priorities





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

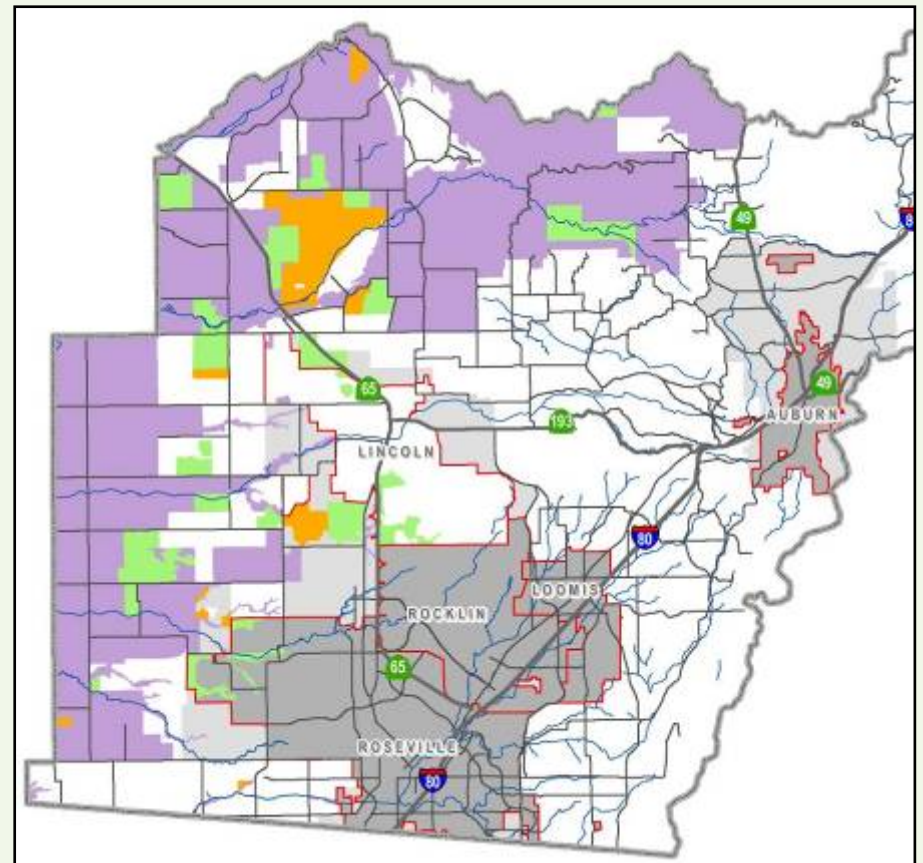
PCCP Reserve Design

Each alternative represents the area within which the final PCCP reserve boundary would be acquired.

The areas in green are permanently preserved today.

The areas in orange have been identified for preservation by private property interests.

The areas in purple represent the areas where the PCCP reserve area would be acquired and maintained.





Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Conservation - Challenges and Pitfalls

Conservation planning in Placer County has a number of challenges:

- Changing regulatory environment: litigation (e.g., critical habitat), statutory (e.g., SB 1334), and local
- Political environment – conservative & dynamic (2 yr election cycles)
- Property rights concerns – see above
- Diversity of habitat – 63% of WHR communities
- Competition with other County programs for County funding
- Cost of land - \$30,000/ac for \$2,500/ac agri land
- A lack of regional coordination – in the end we all become very parochial
- Mitigation needs dictate the majority of conservation planning decisions
- Finding willing sellers – fee title - yes, cons. easement - no



Placer Legacy Open Space & Agricultural Conservation Program

Placer Legacy

Information on the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program and Placer Legacy Program Summary Report are available at:

www.placer.ca.gov/planning/legacy/

or

Loren Clark at (530) 745-3016

